The wise sayings of Hasan al-Basri

Compiled by: Dr Iftakhar Ahmed

"Son of Adam, the knife is being sharpened and the oven is being heated up, yet the ram is still eating the fodder."

- Hasan al-Basri

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Compiler's note:

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Mumbai, India.

10 Rabi Al-Akhar, 1434

Short Biography of Hasan al Basri (Rahimahullah)

He was one of the most renowned tabi`een (the generation after the death of the Prophet ﷺ) and prominent figures of his time. He was a jurist and a scholar. He was a pious and devout person. He was famous for his eloquence, inspiring speeches, wisdom, asceticism, and deep knowledge. He is the revered tabi`ee and the scholar of the people of Basrah, Abu Sa`eed Al-Hasan Ibn Abi Al-Hasan Ibn Yasaar Al-Basri رحمه الله

Birth and early years

Al-Hasan Al-Basri was born in Al-Madeenah in 21 A.H., 642 A.C. during the caliphate of the leader of the Believers, `Umar Ibn Al-Khattaab رضي الله عنه. Both his parents were slaves. His father became a prisoner of war when the Muslims conquered Misaan, an area between Basrah and Waasit in Iraq. His father embraced Islam and lived inAl-Madeenah where he married a bondwoman called Khayyirah who was the maid-slave of Umm Salamh رضي الله عنها the wife of the Prophet ﷺ. The Mother of the Believers, Umm Salamah رضي الله عنها freed Khayyirah after she gave birth to her son Al-Hasan.

Al-Hasan spent his early years with his family in Waadi Al-Qura nearAl-Madeenah. Before he was fourteen years old, he managed to memorize the Glorious Quran. He also learnt reading, writing, and some mathematics. He heard many sayings of the Companions of the Prophet ﷺ and he used to listen to the leader of the Believers, `Uthmaan Ibn `Affaan رضي الله عنه whenever he delivered the Friday sermon. Al-Hasan was fourteen years old at that time.

Moving to Basrah and seeking knowledge

When he was fifteen years old, Al-Hasan moved to Basrah Iraq in 36 A.H.,656 A.C. He began learning jurisprudence, Hadeeth, and the Arabic language at the hands of a large number of the companions of the

Prophet ﷺ who were living in Basrah at that time. His tutor for the recitation of the Glorious Quran was Hattaan Ibn `Abdullaah Ar-Riqashi while his tutor for the methodology of delivering sermons, religious speeches, and recounting religious tales, was Ibn Surayyi` At-Tameemi, the poet.

Delivering sermons and recounting religious tales appealed to Al-Hasan and he took a place in the mosque of Al-Basrah to teach people. Many story tellers back then tended to exaggerate. They were all banned from telling religious tales in the mosque of Al-Basrah except for Al-Hasan who adopted a different methodology. He used to talk about the life after death, reminding people of death, drawing their attention to the religious and moral defects they may have, and how they could overcome them according to what he had learnt from the Book of Allaah, the Sunnah of the Prophet ﷺ, and the revered companions.

His classes

Al-Hasan Al-Basri had a large class in the mosque of Al-Basrah in which he taught people the Prophetic Hadeeth, jurisprudence, the Glorious Quran, the Arabic language, and rhetoric. He also conducted a special class in his house to teach people about asceticism and deliver touching speeches.

Al-Hasan was one of the most knowledgeable people on jurisprudence and the lawful and unlawful acts. He loved the religion of Allaah and he was a pious man who used to refrain from committing any illegal act. He adhered to the straight path in all his affairs. He shouldered the responsibility of guiding and advising people to save his society from the deviations and aberrations that were beginning to prevail. Al-Hasan Al-Basri adopted the doctrine of the companions. He was their student and he had the pleasure of accompanying them. He was influenced by their methodology and he steered their course.

The judge of Al-Basrah

Al-Hasan Al-Basri used to frequently advise the rulers and governors and he never feared anybody except Allaah. He was especially well-known in the last years of the reign of the Umayyad caliph, Mu`aawyah Ibn Abi Sufyaan. Al-Hasan lived in Iraq when Al-Hajjaaj Ibn Yoosuf Ath-Thaqafi was the ruler and Al-Hasan used to severely criticize Al-Hajjaaj's harsh policies.

Al-Hasan Al-Basri was a close friend of the Rightly-Guided Umayyad Caliph, `Umar Ibn `Abdul-`Azeez who loved him very much and used to consult him in some affairs related to administering the Muslim State. Al-Hasan became the judge of Al-Basrah in 102 A.H., 720 A.C. and performed this role on a voluntary basis.

The character of the Imam

Imaam Al-Hasan Al-Basri was a peerless scholar with vast knowledge. He was eloquent and an ascetic and pious worshipper who used to fast many voluntary days. When he recited the Glorious Quran, he would weep until his tears flowed down his cheeks reflecting the extent to which he was deeply influenced by the Holy Book. He was also a courageous fighter who loved to perform Jihaad in the way of Allaah. Whenever Al-Muhallab Ibn Abi Sufrah fought the polytheists, he used to put him in the front line. Al-Hasan was greatly admired and esteemed by his contemporary scholars.

Abu Burdah said: "I have never seen a man who did not accompany the companions of the Prophet yet resembled them, like this scholar (meaning Al-Hasan)."

Abu Qataadah Al-`Adawi said: "Follow this scholar, for I have never seen a man who had similar opinions to `Umar Ibn Al-Khattaab except him."

Abu Qataadah also said: "Al-Hasan Al-Basri was one of the most knowledgeable people on the lawful and unlawful acts."

Humayd and Yoonus Ibn `Ubayd said: "We have never seen a man more decent and courteous than Al-Hasan Al-Basri."

They also said: "We have seen many jurists, but none was more knowledgeable than Al-Hasan Al-Basri."

`Awf said: "I have never seen a man who knows more about the way leading to Paradise except Al-Hasan."

His death

Al-Hasan Al-Basri died on the first of Rajab, which was a Thursday night, 110 A.H.,728 A.C. His funeral was attended by a large number of people. Before his death, he stated that the following should be written down in his will:

This is what Al-Hasan Ibn Abi Al-Hasan believes: He testifies that none is worthy of being worshiped but Allaah and that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allaah. Whoever sincerely believes in this upon his death will enter Paradise."

[Taken from:Islamweb]

May Allah have mercy on Him

☆

Bismillah Ar Rahmaan Ar Raheem

1. Being Busy with the Dunya

It is reported that Al-Hasan Al-Basri – Allah have mercy on him – said:

- **"How strange it is that person whose departure (from this world to the next) has been announced, and whose predecessors have already departed, still plays around!"**

[Abu Bakr Al-Daynuri, Al-Mujalasah wa Jawahir Al-'Ilm article 843.]

2. Utilize your Health and free time before being called to account

It is reported that Al-Hasan Al-Basri – Allah have mercy on him – once said during the funeral of a man:

- **"May Allah have mercy on the man who works for the likes of this day; for today you are able to do what these brothers of yours, the residents of these graves, cannot do. So make full use of your health and free time before the day of distress and accounts comes upon you."**

-[Ibn AbI Al-DunyA, Dhamm Al-DunyA article 53.]

3. Lack of Intelligence and sound Understanding

It is reported that Al-Hasan Al-Basri – Allah have mercy on him – said:

- **"By Allah, never was a person given an abundance of worldly wealth and then not feared this might be a plot against him [for his wrongdoing] except a person lacking intelligence and sound opinion. And never has Allah held back worldly wealth from a person and that person has not thought that a good choice has been made for him except a person who [also] lacks intelligence and sound opinion."**

-[Ibn Abi Al-Dunya, Dham Al-Dunya article 42.]

4. Importance of Knowledge

It is reported that Imam Al-Hasan Al-Basri – Allah have mercy on him – said:

- **"To learn a single topic of knowledge and teach it to a Muslim is more beloved to me than having the whole world and giving it in the cause of Allah."**

-[Al-Khatib Al-BaghdAdi, Al-Faqih wa Al-Mutafaqqih article 53.]

5. Being Grateful and Ungrateful

It is reported that Al-Hasan Al-Basri – Allah have mercy on him – said:

- **"It has reached me that when Allah the Mighty and Majestic blesses a people and gives them some good he asks them to be grateful. If they are grateful, He is all-able to give them more. But if they are ungrateful, He is all-able to turn His blessings into a punishment."**

-[Al-Bayhaqi, Shu'ab Al-Iman article 4536.]

6. Knowledge with Actions and vice versa

It is reported that Al-Hasan Al-Basri – Allah have mercy on him – said:

- **"One who acts without knowledge is like one who travels off the path; and the one who acts without knowledge corrupts more than he rectifies. So seek knowledge in a way that does not harm your worship, and seek to worship [Allah] in a way that does not harm [your seeking of] knowledge. For verily, there were people (the Khawarij extremists) who sought to worship [Allah] but abandoned knowledge until they attacked the Ummah of Muhammad – Allah's praise and peace be upon him – with their swords. But if they had sought knowledge, it would not have directed them to do what they did."**

-[Quoted by Ibn ‘Abd Al-Barr, Jâmi’ Bayan Al-’Ilm wa Fadlihi article 905.]

7. Doing deeds with Love, Hope and Fear of Allah

It is reported that Al-Hasan Al-Basri – Allah have mercy on him – said:

- **“The believer does the best deeds yet is most fearful [that his deeds will not be accepted]. If he were to spend a mountain of wealth [in charity], he would not feel sure [of the reward] until he sees it. The more righteous and pious he becomes, the more he fears. But the hypocrite (munafiq) says, ‘There are so many people, I will be forgiven, no problem.’ So he does wrong and evil deeds, yet holds foolish wishes about Allah.”**

-[Al-Dhahabi, Siyar A’lam Al-Nubala` 4:586.]

8. Don’t eat Much

It is reported that Al-Hasan Al-Basri – Allah have mercy on him – said:

- **“By He in whose Hand is my soul, I have lived amongst people who never ordered food to be prepared for themselves If [food] was presented to one of them, he would eat, otherwise, he would be silent; and he would not care if it was hot or cold.”**

-[Abû Nu’aym, Hilyatu Al-Awliyâ` 6:270.]

It is also reported that he said:

- **"By Allâh, I have lived amongst people who when taking lunch, if they were about to be full, would stop eating."**

-[Ibid]

9. Be an Intelligent by thinking before speaking

It is reported that Al-Hasan Al-Basrî – Allâh have mercy on him – said:

- **"The intelligent person's tongue is behind his heart: when he wants to speak, he first thinks. If [his words] will be in his favor, he says them, and if they will be against him, he does not speak. And the ignorant person's heart is behind his tongue: when he merely thinks of saying something, he says it, whether it is for or against him."**

-[Abû Bakr Al-Daynûrî, Al-Mujâlasah wa Jawâhir Al-'Ilm article 2049]

10. Four signs of wretchedness

It is reported that Al-Hasan Al-Basri – Allah have mercy on him – said:

- **"Four signs of wretchedness are:**
  1. **[having] a hard heart,**
  2. **dry eyes [that never cry],**
  3. **extended hopes [about this life],**
  4. **and greed and keenness to amass worldly things (the dunya)."**

-[Ibn Abi Al-Dunya, Kitab Al-Zuhd article 36]

11. Dealing with the Rulers

It is reported that Al-Hasan Al-Basri – Allah have mercy on him – said:

- **"If people called on Allah when put to trial because of their rulers, Allah would relieve their suffering; but instead they resorted to the sword, so they were left to it. And not one day of good did they bring."**

Then he recited (Quran 7: 137):

And the good word of your Lord was fulfilled for the Children of Israel, for the patience and perseverance they had, and We destroyed the works of Pharaoh and his people and what they had erected.

-[Ibn Abî Hâtim, Al-Tafsîr no. 8897]

12. Three Advices given on his deathbed

It is reported that when Al-Hasan Al-Basri was on his deathbed, some of his companions came to him and said:

- **"O Abu Sa'eed, offer us some words you can benefit us with. He replied, "I will equip you with three words, then you must leave me to face what I am facing.**
  1. **Be the farthest of people from those things you have been forbidden,**
  2. **and be the most involved of people in the good you have been commanded to do;**
  3. **and know that the steps you take are two steps: a step in your favor and a step against you, so be careful where you come and where you go."**

-[Abû Na'yam, Hilyah Al-Awliyâ` 2:154]

13. Definition of Iman

It is reported that Al-Hasan Al-Basri – Allah have mercy on him – said when asked 'what is iman (faith)?':

- **"It is perseverance (al-sabr) from the things that are forbidden by Allah the Mighty and Majestic and acceptance. He was asked, "What is perseverance and acceptance?" He replied, "al-sabr is to persevere in holding back from what Allah has forbidden, and [acceptance is] acceptance of what Allah the Mighty and Majestic has commanded."**

-[Abû Bakr Al-Daynûrî, Al-Mujâlasah wa Jawâhir Al-'Ilm 3:535]

14. Dangerous Nifaaq

It is reported that Al-Hasan Al-Basri – Allah have mercy on him – used to say,

- **"If it were not for the munafiqoon, you would feel all alone in the streets (the streets would be empty)."**

-[Ibn Battah, Al-Ibânah Al-Kubrâ articles 936-938]

15. Our Aslaaf

It is reported from Al-Hasan Al-Basri that he said,

- **"If a man from amongst the Salaf were to be sent forth today, he would not recognize anything from Islam." He put his hand on his cheek and added, "Except this prayer (salah)." Then he said, "But by Allah, this does not apply to the person who lives in this unfamiliar time, never having seen the Righteous Predecessors, but who sees [instead] the innovator calling to his bid'ah, and the follower of worldly wealth calling to his materialism, but Allah protects him from all this and makes his heart love and aspire to those Righteous Predecessors, asking about their way, searching and trying to follow in their footsteps, and adhering to their path. Such is a person who will be recompensed with an immense and great reward. So be you all like this, by Allah's permission".**

-[Ibn Waddâh, Al-Bida' Vol. 1 p190]

16. True Hajj

It was said to Al-Hasan Al-Basri,

- **"People say that the one who has been on Hajj is the one who is forgiven." He said, "And the sign of this is that he leaves the evils he used to do."**

-[Ibn Abî Al-Dunyâ, Al-Tawbah article 70]

17. Seek Hereafter: You will get both

It is reported that Al-Hasan Al-Basri often used to say,

- **"O youth! Seek the hereafter, for we often see people pursuing the hereafter and finding it as well as the dunya (worldly wellbeing), but we have never seen anyone pursue the dunya and gain the hereafter as well as the dunya."**

-[Al-Bayhaqî, Al-Zuhd Al-Kabîr, article 12]

18. Advice of Hasan al Basr to Umar bin Abd al Aziz

It is reported that 'Umar bin 'Abd Al-'Aziz once wrote to Al-Hasan Al-Basri to get a brief exhortation from him, so Al-Hasan wrote back ,

- **"The dunya distracts and preoccupies the heart and body, but al-zuhd (asceticism, not giving importance to worldly things) gives rest to the heart and body. Verily, Allah will ask us about the halal things we enjoyed, so what about the haram!"**

-[Al-Bayhaqî, Al-Zuhd Al-Kabîr, article 26]

19. Life is made up of Only 3 Days

It is reported from Al-Hasan Al-Basri – Allah have mercy on him – that he said:

- **"The life of this world is made up of three days: yesterday has gone with all that was done; tomorrow, you may never reach; but today is for you so do what you should do today."**

-[Al-Bayhaqî, Al-Zuhd Al-Kabîr p197]

20. Root of Nifaaq is Lying

It is reported from Al-Hasan Al-Basri – Allah have mercy on him – that he said:

- **"It used to be said: it is part of al-nifaaq (hypocrisy) to be inwardly different from what you are on the outside, to say one thing and do another and to be different in how you enter and how you leave. And the root of al-nifaaq is lying. "**

-[Abû Bakr Al-Kharâ`itî, Masâwî Al-Akhlâq wa Madhmûmihâ p62]

21. Do not sit with Ahl ul Bidah

Al-Hasan Al-Basri – Allah have mercy on him – said:

- **"Do not sit with an adherent of bid'ah for he will cause a disease in your heart. "**

-[Ibn Waddâh, Al-Bida' p124]

22. Knowledge must be seen in your Actions

Al-Hasan Al-Basri – Allah have mercy on him – said:

- **"When a man sought knowledge, it would not be long before it could be seen in his humbleness, his sight, upon his tongue and his hands, in his prayer, in his speech and in his disinterest (zuhd) in worldly allurements. And a man would acquire a portion of knowledge and put it into practice, and it would be better for him than the world and all it contains – if he owned it he would give it in exchange for the hereafter."**

-[Ibn Al-Mubârak, Al-Zuhd wa Al-Raqâ`iq Vol.1 p.156]

23. Continuous Sin makes heart blind

Explanation of the verse:

Nay, but their hearts were covered over by what (sins) they earned. [Al-Mutaffifîn: 14]

Al-Hasan (Al-Basri) said,

- **"It is because of doing one sin after another, until the heart becomes blind and dies."**

-[Al-Tabarî in his Tafsîr, Sûrah Al-Mutaffifîn]

24. Learn Arabic before destruction

'Abdullah b. Zayd Al-Numayri reports that Al-Hasan Al-Basri said:

- **"They (the heretics) were destroyed by their inability in Arabic (al-'ujmah)."**

-[Al-Bukhârî, Al-Târîkh Al-Kabîr Vol.5 p99]

25. Faith is firm belief and good actions

Al-Hasan Al-Basri – Allah have mercy on him – said:

- **Faith (iman) is not by embellishment or wishful thinking, but it is what settles in the heart and is verified through your works. Whoever says good but does not do good will have his words**

compared to his deeds by Allah. Whoever says good and does good will have his words raised by his deeds.

This is because Allah 'azza wa jalla said:

To Him ascends the good word, and the righteous deed raises it. [Sûrah Fâtir: 10]

-[Ibn Battah in Al-Ibânah Al-Kubrâ Vol. 3 p120, and Al-Khatîb Al-Baghdâdî in Iqtidâ' Al-'Ilm Al-'Amal no.56]

26. Good is Knowledge and Paradise

Commenting on 2:201 of the Quran which states:

Our Lord! Give us the good of this world and the good of the hereafter…

Al-Hasan Al-Basri – Allah have mercy on him – said:

- **"The good of this world is knowledge and worship, and the good of the hereafter is Paradise."**

-[Al-Âjurrî in Akhlâq Al-'Ulamâ' no. 30 and Ibn Jarîr in his Tafsîr of this verse]

27. Asking forgiveness from Allah is the solution to every problem

Hasan al Basri -*Rahimullaah*- mentioned:

- **"That a man complained to him concerning drought so it was said seek forgiveness from Allaah, another complained about another matter so it was said seek forgiveness from Allaah, another complained about lack of rain for his land so it was**

said seek forgiveness from Allaah another complained of no offspring so it was said seek forgiveness from Allaah, then he (Hasan al Basri) recited:

Ask forgiveness of your Lord. Indeed, He is ever a Perpetual Forgiver. He will send [rain from] the sky upon you in [continuing] showers And give you increase in wealth and children and provide for you gardens and provide for you rivers. ***[Nuh: 10-12]"***

-[Taken from: 'Fath al-Bari' Chapter: the Best Method of Seeking forgiveness]

28. No sin on backbiting of these types of people

Hasan Al-Basri said:

- **"There is no backbiting in the case of a person of innovation or a person who openly commits sins."**

— [Al Laalikaa'ee in Sharh Usoolul-l'tiqaad 1/140]

29. Debating creates doubt

A man came to Hasan al Basri and said,

- **"O Abu Sa'eed! Let me debate with you about the Religion."**

Hasan replied, "As for me, I know my religion, if you have lost your Religion then go and look for it."

--[Al-Aajurree; ash-Sharee'ah [p.57]]

30. Nothing beautiful than forgiveness

Al-Hasan al-Basri said:

"The best attribute a believer can have is forgiveness."

-(adab Shar'iyyah 11/121)

31. Sell this life for the hereafter

Al-Hasan al-Basri said:

"Sell this life for the next and you win both of them. Sell the next life for this and you loose both of them."

-(al-Hilyah 2/143)

32. One loses reward by slandering a Muslim brother/Sister

It was told to Imam Hasan al-Basri (rahimahullah):

"So-and-so has slandered you." He sent a tray of halwa [sweets] to the man, noting, "I hear that you have bestowed upon me your good deeds. I would like to repay you."

— [From Imam al Qushayri's al-Risalah]

33. Be Moderate

Imam Hasan al-Basri said:

- **"The Sunnah is – by Him besides whom none has the right to be worshipped – between those who exceed the limits and those who fall short.**

  So be patient upon it, may Allah have mercy upon you. For indeed, the {true} Ahlus-Sunnah were a minority from those who preceded and shall be a minority from those to come. They did not accompany the people who are excessive when they exceeded the limits, nor the people of innovation when they innovated.

  Rather, they persevered upon the Sunnah, until they met their Lord."

-{Sunan ad-Darimi, Volume 1 pgs. 71-72}

34. Glorify Allah for His bounties lest you are punished

Al-Hasan al Basri was once asked about, who will be screaming in horror the most on the Day of Judgment, meaning from Allah's torment. He said:

- **"A man whom Allah had granted bounties, which he used in disobedience of Allah."**

- (Al-Hasan Al Basri, p.47)

35. Be content with little of this world

Al-Hasan Al-Basri said:

- **"Stay away from the busying aspects of life, and surely, life has abundant busying aspects. Every man who indulges in an aspect of life that fills his time, then the door he opened will open ten more doors of busying aspects for him."**

- (Az-Zuhd, by Abdullah bin Al-Mubarak, p.189)

36. Death is the most certain Aspect of life

Al-Hasan al Basri said:

- **"You wish you could live as long as Noah (pbuh) lived, even though Allah's order (death) strikes at someone's door every night!"**

-(Az-Zuhd by Al-Hasan Al-Basri)

37. Reality of life: Remember death

Al-Hasan al Basri said:

- **"Death has exposed the reality of this life and did not leave chance for the wise person to delight in it."**

- (Tarikh Baghdad, vol.14, p.444)

38. Don’t be like kaafir ya Muslimeen

Al-Hasan al Basri said while describing the life of this world:

- **“This life is good for the believer. He works little (i.e. he is moderate in performing acts of worship), and takes enough provisions with him to Paradise. This life is bad for the disbeliever and the hypocrite, for he wastes his nights in it and the only provisions he collects from it, is being directed to the Fire.”**

-(Jami’ul-Ulum wal-Hikam, p.360)

39. Life of this world is prison for the believers

Al-Hasan al Basri said, reported in Jami’ul-Ulum wal-Hikam, p.269 :

- **“In this life, the believer is just like a prisoner who strives hard to free his neck; he never feels safe until he meets Allah, the Exalted and Most Honored.”**

40. The righteous believers live just as Hasan Al-Basri described them

Hasan al Basri said:

- **“May Allah grant mercy to some people who used this life as if it was a loan; they gave it back to He who has entrusted it to them and went away with a light weight (of burden).”**

-(Al-Ihya, vol.3, p.221)

41. Wealth, Speech, Character

Al-Hasan al Basri said:

- **"He whose wealth increases, his sins increase, and he whose speech multiplies, his lies multiply. He whose conduct becomes harsher, torments his own self."**

-(Kitab-us-Samt, p.85)

42. Don't feel safe

Al-Hasan al Basri said:

- **"By Allah! Anyone among mankind who earns abundance in his life but does not feel afraid that he is being tried and tested, then his deeds will decrease and his opinion will become obsolete. Whenever Allah withholds this life's splendor from a Muslim slave, who thinks that he is allowed to excessively indulge in its delights, then know that he is being deprived because his good deeds have decreased and his opinion became obsolete."**

-(Hilyatul-Awliya, vol.6, p.272)

43. Strange!

Al-Hasan al Basri said:

- **"Amazing is he who laughs, even though the Fire is in front of him, and feels elation, while death is awaiting him!"**

-(Tanbihul-Ghafilin, vol.1, p.212)

44. Reckon yourself before you are reckoned by Allah on the day of Judgement

Al-Hasan al Basri said:

- **"He among mankind who will receive the least reckoning on the Day of Judgment, is he who reckons his own self in the life of the world for Allah's sake. He who contemplate his intentions and actions; if whatever he has intended is for Allah's sake, he persists in it, otherwise he refrains from doing it. Verily, reckoning on the Day of Judgment becomes heavy for those who were hasty in this life and did not hold themselves accountable. They will find that Allah has counted their deeds, including what equals an atom."**

-(Life is a Fading Shadow, by Abdul-Malik Muhammad ibn Abdul Rahman al-Qasim, p.50 [English translated version])

45. Beautiful advice by Hasan al Basri to Umar bin Abdul Aziz

Al-Hasan Al-Basri wrote to Caliph 'Umar bin Abdul-Aziz:

- **"This life is temporary and not permanent; Adam was sent down to it as punishment. Therefore, O Leader of the Faithful, beware of this life and know that the best provision pertains to abandoning excessive indulgence in it and that wealth pertains to being deprived of its splendor. This life always has its victims. It brings disgrace to those who are mighty in it and poverty to those who collect it with greed. Its parable is poisons: when one unknowingly eats the poison, he will die as a consequence. Therefore, be like a wounded man who nurses his wounds for a**

while for fear of extended repercussions and endures the bitterness of the medicine so that his illness is not prolonged. Beware of this deceiving life, for it cheats and lures people with its beauty. Life lures with its false adornments and deceives with its hopes. It has beautified itself for those who seek it in marriage and became just like the beautiful bride at whom the eyes stare, whom the hearts adore and the inner self covets. However, life kills all of its husbands. Yet, its current husbands do not take a lesson from the fate of her ex-husbands whom it killed, nor do the latter advise the surviving former against its danger. However covets life, satisfies his desire from it and becomes further deceived by his excessive indulgence in its affairs. He becomes a tyrant who forgets the Return (to Allah), until his feet are removed from this life, and consequently, his sorrow increases and his grief intensifies. He departs this life without sufficient provisions and is introduced to the Last Life without having firm foundation to rely on. Beware of this life, O Leader of the Faithful! Even when you feel more delight in it as ever before, you should be more aware of it as ever before. Whenever owners of life's splendor feel comfortable in this life, it is followed with an affliction. What seems delightful in this life is connected to hardship, and whatever is though permanent, is bound to vanish. The joys of this Life are mixed with sadness. Whatever leaves it never comes back and whatever is to come is unknown, so awaiting for it does not avail. Its wishes are unreal, its hopes are false, its core is impure and its essence is encompassed by grief. Verily, the son of Adam is always in danger from this life while still in it. Life was offered to your

Prophet Muhammad (sallallau alaihi wasallam) with its keys and treasures, but he refused to accept it. He dislike to covet what Allah does not prefer, or to elevate what His King has made lowly. It is Allah Who kept life's splendor away from the righteous as a test for them and gave its abundance to His enemies as a trial from Him. It was reported that Allah the Exalted and Most Honored said to Moses (sallallau alaihi wasallam) 'If you see riches coming, say, 'this is on account of a sin for which the punishment is sent sooner rather than later.' If you see poverty coming, say, 'Welcome, O sign of the righteous."

- (Iddatus-Sabirin, p.331)

46. Live as our Salaf lived to become successful

Al-Hasan Al-Basri said about the companions and leaders of the second generation of Islam, the Tabi'in , and he was one of them:

- **"I met some people who would not rejoice at the splendor of life when it came to them, nor dedicate their attention to any part of it that went away from them. This life was as worthless in their eyes as dust. One of them lived for fifty or sixty years during which he only owned the clothes that he wore, did not have a barrier between his body and the floor when he slept, and did not ask his family to cook a dish of food for him. When night came, they would be standing and then laying their foreheads on the floor (in Sujud [prostration]), with tears running down their cheeks.They begged their Lord to free their**

necks (from the Fire). Whenever they performed a good deed, they appreciated Allah for it and sked Him in supplication to accept it. Whenever they commited an error, they felt sad and begged Allah to forgive it for them, may Allah's mercy and pleasure be on them. By Allah! They were not saved from the repercussions and evil consequences of sins, except through Allah's forgiveness."

- (Al-Ihya, vol.4, p.239)

47. Real Faqih

Al-Hasan Al-Basri said:

- **"The Faqih (who has knowledge in the religion), is he who is disinterested in this life, eager for the Last Life, has knowledge in the religion, often worships his Lord, refrains from breaching the honor of Muslims and from unjustly acquiring their wealth and sincerely advises them."**

-(Mukhtasar Minhajil-Qasidin, by Imam Ahmad bin Muhammad Al-Maqdisi, p.21)

48. Obedience and disobedience

Al Hasan al Basri said:

- **"Allah the Exalted has ordained the acts of obedience, and helps one perform them, and has forbidden the acts of disobedience, and helps one avoid them. Work as much as you feel able to**

endure the blazing Fire, and know that you have no excuse if you end up in it."

-(Az-Zuhd Al-Fa'ih, p.95)

49. Shaitan only wants this from you. So always ask forgiveness

Imam Hasan Al-Basri (rahimullah) was asked:

- **"Shouldn't one of us feel too shy to ask his Lord to forgive his sin, then do it again, then ask for forgiveness, then do it again?"**

  He said:

  "The Shaytaan wishes that you would have this attitude, so do not tire of asking for forgiveness".

- ["Al-Jaami Al-Ulum", 1/165]

50. Whoever acts without knowledge

Hasan al-Basri (rahimahullaah) said:

- **"I saw a people from the Companions of the Messenger of Allaah (sallallaahu `alayhi wa sallam) saying:**

  'Whoever acts without knowledge, then that which he corrupts and ruins is greater than that which he sets aright. The one who does deeds without 'ilm is like a traveller without a path, so seek knowledge with such a seeking that does not harm

‘ibaadah (worship) and seek (to perform) ‘ibaadah such that it does not harm ‘ilm.’

And a man from amongst them would seek knowledge until it was readily seen from his khushoo’ (humbleness), his zuhd (asceticism), his speech and sight.”

-[Siyar A’laam al-Nubalaa’]

51. Do not be proud and the reasons are three

Hasan Basri adviced some of his students admonishing them about avoiding the state of being proud. He said;

- **Do not deceive yourself into being too proud because you are in a good or righteous environment, for there is no place that is better than Paradise, and our father, Adam (as), experienced there what is known to all.**

  Do not become proud merely because you worship often, for consider what happened to Iblees (Satan) after he spent a great deal of time worshiping.

  Do not think yourself great because you have met with righteous people, for there is no man more righteous than the Prophet (sallallahu alaihi wasallam), yet the disbelievers and hypocrites did not benefit by simply knowing him.

-[Taken from "Gems And Jewels", P. 182]

52. Don't feel safe from the fitnah and always ask Allah for the Imaan at the time of death

It is related that a group of people were once seated in the company of Al-Hasan Al-Basri, when some men passed by, dragging along with them a body of a dead man. When Al-Hasan saw the dead man, a glint of instant recognition could be discerned in his eyes, and he fell unconscious from the shock of some memory that had just been rekindled.

When he regained consciousness, his companions asked him what was wrong with him.

He said;

- **This man – referring to the dead man being dragged along on the ground – used to be one of the best worshippers and one of the most renowned ascetics in the world (renouncing all the temporary pleasures of this world because he was so busy and devoted to worship).**

  One day he left his home, intending to go to the masjid to pray; but on the way, he saw a beautiful young Christian women, who became an immediate temptation to him.

  When he proposed to her, she refused, saying, "I will not marry you until you become an adherent of my religion."

  He went on his way, but as time went on, he yearned for her continued to increase. He then succumbed to her wish and exited from the fold of Islaam – the religion of pure, unadulterated Monotheism.

  After he became a Christian and some time passed, the woman came out to him from behind the curtain and said, "You are a man who is bereft of goodness. You have forsaken your religion, which was important to you for your entire life,

simply for the sake of a lust that is of no value. Indeed, I too am forsaking my religion, but not for the same reason. I am doing so in order to achieve a blissful existence that never comes to an end, an eternal existence under the care of the One, the As-Samad (i.e., Allaah; The Self-Sufficient Master, Whom all creature need, He neither eats nor drinks).“

She then recited the entire Chapter of Al-Ikhlaas:

“Say (O Muhammad (saw)): “He is Allah, (the) One. Allah-us-Samad (The Self-Sufficient Master, Whom all creatures need, He neither eats nor drinks). He begets not, nor was He begotten; And there is none co-equal or comparable unto Him.” [Qur'aan 112:1-4]

When the people had heard about what she had said, they approached her and asked, “All along, you had this Chapter memorized?“

“No,” she answered. “By Allaah, I had never known it before. But after this man continued to insist upon having me, I saw a dream; I saw Hellfire, and my place in it was shown to me. I became terrified and panic-stricken. Maalik – the gatekeeper of the Hellfire – said to me, ‘Do not be afraid or sad, for Allaah has ransomed (i.e., saved) you with this man (i.e., he will take the place in Hellfire that you would have taken had not Allaah saved you).’ He then took me by the hand and admitted me into Paradise. Seeing a line written inside of it, I read it; among what was written were these Words:

“Allaah blots out what He wills and confirms (what He wills). And with Him is the Mother of the Book (Al-Lauh Al-Mahfooz)“. [Qur'aan 13"39]

He then recited Soorah Ikhlaas to me, and I began to repeat it. Then I woke up and had it (Soorah Ikhlaas) memorized.“

Al-Hasan then said, "The woman then embraced Islaam, and the man – whose corpse you just saw being dragged away – was killed for having apostatized. And I ask Allaah to make us firm and steadfast upon guidance and to grant us safety and success."

-*[*Taken from "Glimpses From The Lives Of Righteous People", Pp. 53-55, Darussalam publishing*]*

53 . Making tomorrow as your main concern

Al-Hasan Al-Basri said:

- **"Beware of entering upon a day having tomorrow or other future days as your main concern and worry.**

  (If you do so), you will increase in anxiety and difficulty, and you will wish to collect during your day, what will suffice you for several days. How stupid! One ends up being preoccupied, one's grief gets worse and one's toil and labor becomes great.

  And the slave ends up neglecting doing (good) deeds as a result of these hopes (he has in tomorrow and the future days)."

-[Al-Hilyah by Aboo Nu'aym, 2/139]

54. Sincerity is Must

Al-Hasan al-Basri, (rahimahullaah), said:

- **"Whoever learns something in the name of Allaah, seeking that which is with Him, he will win. And whoever learns something for other than Allaah, he will not reach the goal, nor will his acquired knowledge bring him closer to Allaah."**

-[Related by Ibn ul Jawzee]

55. What security do I have?

Yunus bin 'Ubaid *said:*

- **'I have not seen anyone with more feeling of sadness than Al-Hasan, he used to say,**

  'We laugh now and perhaps Allah has looked over our actions and said: I will not accept anything from you'.

  Al-Hasan said: "The believer wakes up feeling sad and goes to sleep feeling sad as there is no room for him other than this since he is in between two (constant) fears: a mistake he has committed which he does not know what Allah will do with it, and the time left ahead not knowing what hardships he will face."

  Al-Hasan was scolded for his deep sadness and fear, so he replied: "What security do I have that perhaps Allah has seen what He dislikes of me and says, 'Go, I will not forgive you. So I work for that which cannot be worked for'."

He was brought a mug of water to break his fast, so when it was brought nearer to him, he began to weep. He said, 'I remembered the wish of the people of hell-fire and what they said: "Pour upon us some water or from whatever Allah has provided you." and I remembered the reply: "Indeed, Allah has forbidden them both to the disbelievers".

A man asked Al-Hasan, 'How have you woken up?' He said, 'Fine.' The man said, 'How are you?' Al-Hasan smiled and said, 'You ask me how I am?! What do you think of people who got aboard a ship until they reached the middle of the sea and the ship broke down, so each one was hanging on by a wood, what would be their state? My state is more severe than theirs.'

-[Translated from Mahmood Al-Masri's *'Qisas Al-Tabi'een'*, P. 258]

56. Winter is the best season

Al Hasan Al Basri was reported to have said:

- **"The best season to a believer is the winter, its nights are long for those who wish to pray, and its days are short for those who wish to fast"**

-[*Ibn Al-Jawzi*, **Sifah Al-Safwah** Vol. 2/P. 433]

57. Simplicity of Uthman bin Affan (RadiAllahu anhu)

Al-Hasan Al-Basri said:

- **I saw 'Uthman bin 'Affan sleeping in the mosque with a sheet around him and there was no one beside him, and he was Amir Al-Mu'mineen (commander of the faithful).**

-[Hilat Al-Awliya, 1/60]

58. Only Hypocrite feel safe from Nifaaq

Al-Hasan Al-Basri said,

- **'Nobody feared it [hypocrisy] except a believer, and nobody felt safe of it except a hypocrite'**

-[Al-Khalal in Al-Sunnah, 5/68]

59. What is Iman?

Al-Hasan Al-Basri Said:

- **Iman is not wishful thinking or outward appearances but a matter rooted in the heart and confirmed by actions.**

-[*Al-Durar Al-Sunniah*]

60. Woe to you, son of Adam! Can you fight Allah?

Imam al-Hassan Al Basri said:

- **"We laugh and yet – who knows? – perhaps Allah has looked at some of our works and said: "I will not accept anything from you." Woe to you, son of Adam! Can you fight Allah? Whoever disobeys Allah is fighting Him. By Allah! I have met seventy veterans of Badr. Most of their garments were wool. Had you seen them you would have said they are crazy, and had they seen the best among you they would have said: "Those people will have no part in the Hereafter." Had they seen the worst among you they would have said: "Those people do not believe**

in the Day of Reckoning." I have seen people for whom this world was cheaper than the dust under their feet. I have seen people the like of whom would come home at night, not finding more than his own portion of food, and yet say: "I shall not put all of this into my belly. I shall certainly give some away for Allah's sake." Then he would give away some of his food in charity, even if he were more in need of it than its recipient."

-[Narrated from *`Alqama ibn Marthad* by Abu Nu`aym in *Hilya al-Awliya'* (1985 ed. 2:134)]

61. How heedless are you?

Hasan al Basri said:

- **"It baffles me to see a people who are advised to get their provision and are told that the departure time is due, yet they sit down playing!"**

-(Read on pg 197, Salaahud-Deen ibn 'Alee ibn 'Abdul-Mawjood, Imam Sa'eed bin Al-Musayyab (Biography). Darussalam Publishers. Riyadh:2006.)

62. Do not make angels feel slackened

Hasan al Basri said:

- **"The land of Paradise is flat and angels keep planting on it. When they slacken, they are asked "Why did you slacken?" They [the angels] say, 'Our fellow has slackened.' Do not make angels feel slackened, may Allah bestow His Mercy on all of you."**

-[Hilyatu'l-Auliyaa by Abu-Nu'aym (9/276), who attributed this narration to Abu Sulayman ad-Darani

(Read on pg 44, Ibn al-Jawzi, Awakening From The Sleep of Heedlessness. Daar as-Sunnah Publishers. Birmingham: 2012.)]

63. Benefits of learning at an early age

Hasan al Basri said:

- **"The effect of learning in early age is like engraving on a stone."**

-[Bahjat al-Majalis, 1/109

(Read on pg 21, Ibn al-Jawzi, Awakening From The Sleep of Heedlessness. Daar as-Sunnah Publishers. Birmingham: 2012.)]

64. Hell is waiting for us and yet we are busy with the dunya

Hasan al Basri said:

- **"Son of Adam, the knife is being sharpened and the oven is being heated up, yet the ram is still eating the fodder."**

-(Read on pg 197, Salaahud-Deen ibn 'Alee ibn 'Abdul-Mawjood, Imam Sa'eed bin Al-Musayyab (Biography). Darussalam Publishers. Riyadh:2006.)

65. When did real reciters every say things like this?

Truly, this Qur'an is recited by slaves and children who have no knowledge of its interpretation, for they have not followed the matter from its beginning.

Allah, Mighty and Majestic, said, *'A Book, We have sent it down to you, Blessed, that they may ponder its signs deeply.* (S. Sad [38], v. 29)'

Hasan al Basr said:

- **Pondering its signs deeply is no more than following it, and Allah Knows best. But by Allah, it is not preserving its letters while wasting its limits! One of them even says, 'I have recited the whole Qur'an without missing a single letter of it,' although by Allah, he has missed it all, for the Qur'an is not seen in him in any of his character or deeds. Another even says, 'Truly, I can recite a surah in one breath'! By Allah, these are not reciters, or people of knowledge or wisdom or spiritual caution! When did real reciters every say things like this? May Allah not make their like widespread amongst the people!**

-(Read on pg 41, Imam Abu Baker Muhammad b. al-Husayn al-Ajurri, The Character of the Bearers and People of the Qur'an. Al-Quran Society. London:2002.)

66. If all people obey Allah and you disobey him, their obedience will not benefit you and vice versa

Hasan al Basri said:

- **"O son of Adam! You will die alone, be resurrected alone and be recompensed alone. O son of Adam! If all people obey Allah and you disobey him, their obedience will not benefit you. If they all disobey Allah and you obey him, their disobedience will not harm you. O son of Adam! Beware of your sins, for it is your flesh and blood at stake. If you are saved from the evil repercussions of your sins, your flesh and blood will be saved for you. If it is the other destination, then it is a Fire that will**

never be extinguished, a body that will never perish [eternal torment] and a soul that will never die."

- (al-Hasan al-Basri, p.101)

(Read on pg 123, Abdul-Malik bin Muhammad ibn Abdul Rahman Al-Qasim, Silent Moments: The Description of Before & After Death Aspects. Darussalam Publishers. Riyadh:2004.)

67. Three types of reciters of Qur'an

- **The reciters of the Qur'an are of three types:**

1-Those who take it as merchandise with which they ply their trade.

2-Those who recite its words but fail to comply with its injunctions, they use it to lord over the people of their land and rely on it to ascend to positions of authority. There are many who fall into this category, may Allah make their number small!

3-Those who treat the Qur'an as a cure and apply it to heal the ailments of the hearts. They recite it in their places of devotion and attain tranquility, they weep in their hooded cloaks, and they are overcome with fear and somberness. It is for their sake that Allah sends down the rain and it is through them that Allah confers victory against the enemy. By Allah this category is rarer than red gold.

-[Ibn Abi al-Dunya, al-Hamm wa'l-Huzn #152 / Bayhaqi, Shu'ab #2621]

(Read on pg 86, Ibn Rajab al-Hanbali and Abu Bakr al-Ajurri, The Journey of the Strangers. Daar as-Sunnah Publishers. Birmingham: 2009.)

68. True meaning of hastening to the prayer

Hasan al Basri said:

- **By Allah! Hastening to the prayer is not accomplished by the feet. Indeed they were prohibited from coming to prayer without tranquility and dignity. Rather, it is about the hearts, the intention, and the submission.**

- [Tafseer Ibn Katheer]

(Read on pg 64. Dr. Gower Yusuf, Al-Jumu'ah: The Day of Congregation. IIPH. Riyadh: 2010.)

69. Quran is your mirror

Hasan al Basri said:

- **Whoever wishes to know who he is, let him present himself to the Qur'an.**

- (Read on pg 21, Imam Abu Baker Muhammad b. al-Husayn al-Ajurri, The Character of the Bearers and People of the Qur'an. Al-Quran Society. London:2002.)

70. Visiting graveyard with no fear-Hard heart

Al-Ḥasan al-Baṣri once saw a man eating in the graveyard and commented,

- **“This is a hypocrite; he sees death before his eyes, yet his stomach craves for food.”**

-[Tanbihu Al-Ghafilin, vol. 2, p. 617

(Read on pg 107, Abdul-Malik bin Muhammad ibn Abdul Rahman Al-Qasim, Silent Moments: The Description of Before & After Death Aspects. Darussalam Publishers. Riyadh:2004.)]

71. Beginning and end

Al-Ḥasan al-Baṣrī once sat next to an empty grave and said,

- **“A matter (ie. life) that ends like this deserves to feel disinterest about its beginning. A matter that starts like this (ie. death) deserves that its end is feared (ie. the Hereafter).”**

-[Al-Mudhish, p. 190

(Read on pg 105, Abdul-Malik bin Muhammad ibn Abdul Rahman Al-Qasim, Silent Moments: The Description of Before & After Death Aspects. Darussalam Publishers. Riyadh:2004.)]

72. Believer is a stranger

Hasan al Basri said:

- **“In this world the believer is like a stranger, he does not despair when it humiliates him and neither does he covet its grandeur. The people are in one state, and he is in a totally different state.”**

— *(Read on pg 33, Ibn Rajab al-Hanbali and Abu Bakr al-Ajurri, The Journey of the Strangers. Daar as-Sunnah Publishers. Birmingham: 2009.)*

73.Rulers are corrupt because of our sins

Imam al-Khattabi said:

- **“Who will do the job today like Al-□asan al-Ba□rī with his sincerity of advice and moving admonishment? May Allah rectify us and our rulers, for they are corrupt because of our sins.”**

- [al-'Uzla, p. 235]

(Read on pg 71, Ibn al-Jawzi, Sincere Counsel to the Students of Sacred Knowledge. Daar as-Sunnah Publishers. Birmingham: 2011.)

74. Wealth and fame are the stain of sacred knowledge

Hasan al Basri said:

- **“ Everything has something staining it, and the stain of Scared Knowledge is covetousness (ie. wealth, fame).”**

- (Read on pg 70, Ibn al-Jawzi, Sincere Counsel to the Students of Sacred Knowledge. Daar as-Sunnah Publishers. Birmingham: 2011.)

75. How Hasan al Basri became Master of Basra?

Hasan al Basri said:

- **“A bedouin once passed by Basra and asked, “Who is the Master of this city?”**

  It was said to him, “Al-Hasan al-Basri.”

  He asked, “And how did he become their master?”

They replied, “He had no need of their worldly effects but they were in need of his knowledge.”

-(Read on pg 70, Ibn al-Jawzi, Sincere Counsel to the Students of Sacred Knowledge. Daar as-Sunnah Publishers. Birmingham: 2011.)

76. Capital of Muslims

Hasan al Basri said:

- **“The capital of the believer is his religion, it is always with him, he does not leave it behind when on a journey and neither does he entrust it to another.”**

- (Read on pg 37, Ibn Rajab al-Hanbali and Abu Bakr al-Ajurri, The Journey of the Strangers. Daar as-Sunnah Publishers. Birmingham: 2009.)

77. Honoring parents

Hasan al Basri said:

“To spend upon them what you possess and to obey them as long as it does not involve disobedience (to Allah).”

- (Read on pg 35, Muhammad Ibn ‘Umar Bazmul, The Rights of the Parents in Light of the Qur’an and the Sunnah. Sunnah Publishing. USA:2012.)

78. Reason for the shining faces of those who pray tahajjud

- **"One man asked al-Hasan al-Basri why the faces of the people who perform tahajjud (night prayers) shine more brightly than others.**

  He answered: "It is because when they are alone with the light of the All-Merciful, He clothes them with light from His Light."

-(Chapter on al-Muraqaba wa'l-muhasabah in Ihya 'ulum ad-din, Imam al-Ghazali)

(Read on pg 21-22, Mohsen Shaker al-Bayoumi, Slaves of the All-Merciful. Ta-Ha Publishers. London: 2005.)

79. Allah is loved only by obeying Him

Hasan al Basri said:

- **"Know that you cannot love Allah until you love obeying Him!"**

- (Read on pg 49, Ibn Rajab al-Hanbali, The Key to Paradise. Daar us-Sunnah Publishers. Birmingham: 2007.)

80. Why Hasan al Basri was weeping before his death?

Hasan al Basri said:

- **"For fear that Allah might throw me in the Fire and care less about me."**

-[Az-Zahru Al-Fa-i'h fi Thikri man Tanazzaha 'an ath-Thunubi wal-Qaba-ih, by Muhammad b. Muhammad b. Yusuf al-Jazri, p.91

(Read on pg 67, Abdul-Malik bin Muhammad ibn Abdul Rahman Al-Qasim, Silent Moments: The Description of Before & After Death Aspects. Darussalam Publishers. Riyadh:2004.)]

81. Son of Adam has lowered his head because of three

Hasan al Basri said:

- **"If it were not for three, the son of Adam would not have lowered his head: death, illness, and poverty. Other than that, however, he is proud."**

-[Al-Hasan Al-Basri, p. 41

(Read on pg 42, Abdul-Malik bin Muhammad ibn Abdul Rahman Al-Qasim, Silent Moments: The Description of Before & After Death Aspects. Darussalam Publishers. Riyadh:2004.)]

82. Laugh less, weep more

- **"Once Al-□asan al-Ba□rī passed by a man who was laughing (excessively) and asked him, "O my nephew! Have you safely passed over the Sirat?" The man said, "No."**

  Al-□asan al-Ba□rī then asked, "Have you received news that you will end up in Paradise or Hell?" The man said, "No."

  Al-□asan al-Ba□rī asked him, "Why do you laugh then, may Allah save you, while the matter ahead is horrifying?"

  That man was never seen in such laughter until he died."

Note: This does not refer to smiling as this is part of the Sunnah for which the Muslim earns a charity

-[Al-Hasan Al-Basri, p. 89

(Read on pg 56, Abdul-Malik bin Muhammad ibn Abdul Rahman Al-Qasim, Silent Moments: The Description of Before & After Death Aspects. Darussalam Publishers. Riyadh:2004.)]

83. The period of stay is short

Hasan al Basri said:

- **"O son of Adam! Sell your current life for your latter life, and you will win both. Do not sell your latter life for this life, for you will lose them both. The period of stay is short, and the righteous ones went away before you, so what are you waiting for? By Allah, it is about to come, and then the latter ones will join the former ones among you."**

-[At-Tabsirah, vol. 1, p. 368

(Read on pg 41, Abdul-Malik bin Muhammad ibn Abdul Rahman Al-Qasim, Silent Moments: The Description of Before & After Death Aspects. Darussalam Publishers. Riyadh:2004.)]

84. Weep in the night for the day of resurrection

Hasan al Basri said:

- **"Had the hearts had life or righteousness in them, they would have made you weep about a night after which follows the Day of Resurrection, during which the creations will see more naked bodies and weeping eyes than ever before."**

-[Sifatu as-Safwah, vol. 3, p. 234

(Read on pg 33-34, Abdul-Malik bin Muhammad ibn Abdul Rahman Al-Qasim, Silent Moments: The Description of Before & After Death Aspects. Darussalam Publishers. Riyadh:2004.)]

85. How are you O Hasan al Basri?

- **" Al-Hasan al-Basri was asked, "O Abu Sai'd! How are you?"**

  He replied, "Like he who awaits death when night falls, and in the morning, he does not know if he will live through the night or in which state (condition) he will die."

-(Read on pg 32, Abdul-Malik bin Muhammad ibn Abdul Rahman Al-Qasim, Silent Moments: The Description of Before & After Death Aspects. Darussalam Publishers. Riyadh:2004.)

86. Fear of death leads us to do good deeds

Hasan al Basri said:

- **"Those who were before you used to often consider the nearness of death. One of them would often take water for purity, fulfill the call of nature and perform ablution, fearing that Allah's Command (death) might come to him while he is not in a state of purity."**

-[Az-Zuhd, by Abdullah ibn al-Mubarak, page 9

(Read on pg 17-18, Abdul-Malik bin Muhammad ibn Abdul Rahman Al-Qasim, Silent Moments: The Description of Before & After Death Aspects. Darussalam Publishers. Riyadh:2004.)]

87. Sit with the people who remind you of death

Al-Hasan al-Basri was asked,

- **"O Abu Sa'id! What should we do? We sit with people who make us afraid (from death) that makes our hearts fly away."**

  He said, "By Allah! If you associate with someone who makes you afraid, so that you earn safety, is better than associating with someone who makes you feel safe, for in this case, un-safety might touch you."

-[Al-I'hyaa 4:170

(Read on pg 17, Abdul-Malik bin Muhammad ibn Abdul Rahman Al-Qasim, Silent Moments: The Description of Before & After Death Aspects. Darussalam Publishers. Riyadh:2004.)]

88. People who used to consider this world as sand under their feet

Hasan al Basri said:

- **"By He in Whose Hand is my life! I met people who were as disinterested in this life as they were in the sand they walked on."**

- (Read on pg 23, Abdul-Malik bin Muhammad ibn Abdul Rahman Al-Qasim, Life is a Fading Shadow. Darussalam Publishers. Riyadh:1999.)

89. Life is only days

Hasan al Basri said:

- **"Son of Adam! Life is only days, so if your day passes, your life becomes shorter."**

- (Read on pg 22, Abdul-Malik bin Muhammad ibn Abdul Rahman Al-Qasim, Life is a Fading Shadow. Darussalam Publishers. Riyadh:1999.)

90. Taqwa is between Halal and haram

Hasan al Basri said:

- **"The ones who have taqwa protect themselves from what Allah has prohibited and act upon what He has commanded. Taqwa remains with them until they forsake many halal things fearing that they could be haram."**

-(Read on pg 22, Imam Muhammad Salih al-Uthaymin, The Benefits of Fearing Allah. Dar as-Sunnah Publishers. Birmingham:2010.)

91. Constantly evaluate yourself

Hasan al Basri said:

- **"You will not meet a believer except he is evaluating himself."**

- (Read on pg 103-104, Shaikh Muhammad Salih al-Munajjid, Weakness of Iman. Daar us-Sunnah Publisher. Birmingham:2003.)

92. Soften your heart with the dhikr of Allah

A man said to al-Hasan al-Basri,

- **"O Abu Sa'eed, I am complaining to you of the hardness of my heart."**

  He said,
  "Soften it with dhikr. The more forgetful the heart is, the harder it becomes, but if a person remembers Allaah, that

hardness softens as copper melts in the fire. Nothing can soften the hardness of the heart like the remembrance of Allaah, may He be glorified and exalted. Dhikr is healing and medicine for the heart. Forgetfulness is a disease, the cure for which is remembrance of Allaah."

-(Al-Waabil al-Sayib wa Raafi al-Kalim al-Tayyib, 142)

(Read on pg 93, Shaikh Muhammad Salih al-Munajjid, Weakness of Iman. Daar us-Sunnah Publisher. Birmingham:2003.)

93. I have seen death, and I shall never stop working hard until I meet it.

- **"Al-Hasan al-Basri once went to visit a sick person and found him in the throes of death, so he saw the distress and anguish that had befallen him. He went back to his family with a different color from when he had left them (ie. he was visibly shaken by what he had seen).**

  They said to him, "Come and eat, may Allah have mercy on you."

  He said, "O my family, go ahead, eat and drink. I have seen death, and I shall never stop working hard until I meet it."

-(Al-Tadhkirah, 17).

(Read on pg 86, Shaikh Muhammad Salih al-Munajjid, Weakness of Iman. Daar us-Sunnah Publisher. Birmingham:2003.)

94. Heart corrupters

Hasan al Basri said:

- **"The heart becomes corrupt through six means:**

  1-Committing a sin in the hope of repenting

  2-Seeking knowledge and not applying it

  3-Practice without sincerity

  4-Eating the sustenance of Allah without appreciating Him

  5-Not being pleased with Allah's allocation (destiny)

  6-Burying the dead without learning from them"

- (Read on pg 30, Imam Ghazali, Imam Ibn Qayyim, Ibn Rajab Hanbali, Taqwa: The Provision of Believers. Al-Firdous Ltd. London:1995.)

95. Do good deeds in private

Hasan al Basri said:

- **"We used to be amongst a group of people (i.e., the Companions) who would never do any act in public if they could do so in private. And those Muslims would strive in making their du'a, and not a sound would be heard from them! For they used to whisper to their Lord."**

-[Report by at-Tabarī in his Tafsīr (5/514)]

-(Read on pg 88, Yasir Qadhi, Du'a: The Weapon of the Believer. Al-Hidaayah Publishing & Distribution Ltd. Birmingham: 2003.)

96. Striving is of different levels

Hasan al Basri said:

"A person may struggle in the way of God, without ever striking a sword even once."

- (from Tafsīr Ibn Kathīr, commentary on al-Ankabut:6)

97. Before doing any action, check for two things:-Niyyah and Allowed or disallowed

Hasan al Basri said:

- **"My eye has never set on anything, nor has my tongue articulated a word, nor has my hand struck anything, nor have my feet started moving, except that I first examined whether it was an action of obedience or disobedience: if it was obedience, I proceeded; but if it was disobedience, I refrained."**

- (Read on pgs 52-53, Ibn Rajab al-Hanbali, The Key to Paradise. Daar us-Sunnah Publishers. Birmingham: 2007.)

98. Be persistent in your deeds lest Satan deceive you

Hasan al Basri said:

- **"When shaytān looks at you and sees you persistent in your obedience to Allah (Subhanahu wa ta'ala)), he will do his utmost to deceive you; if he still sees you persistent, he will give up on you and leave. However, if he sees you alternating between this and that, he will have hope in you."** - (Read on pg 39, Ibn Rajab al-Hanbali, The Journey to Allah. Daar us-Sunnah Publishers. Birmingham: 2007.)

99. He is a scholar?

Al-Hasan [al-Basri] said,

- **"Do not let the share of knowledge that one of you possesses be merely that the people say that he is a scholar."**

-[The evil of craving for wealth and status by al-Haafidh ibn Rajab al-Hanbalee, pg-26]

100. If you had.....

Al-Ḥasan al-Baṣri to 'Umar bin 'Abd al-'Aziz:

- **"If you had the age of Nuh, the ownership of Suleiman, the faith of Ibrahim, and the wisdom of Luqman, then you would still have to face the agony of death. Behind death there are two abodes: if you miss one of them, you will end up in the second."**

-(Read on pg 173, Al-Hafiz Jamaludeen Abi Al-Faraj and Abd Ar-Rahman bin Al-Jawzi and Al-Qurashi and Al-Baghdadi, The Biography and virtues of Omar bin Abd Al-Aziz: The Ascetic Caliph. Dar Al-Kotob Al-ilmiyah. Beirut:2001.)

101. Be a Brother, a father and a son

Al-Ḥasan al-Baṣri to 'Umar bin 'Abd al-'Aziz:

- **"In order to be followed as an example, be a brother to your other Muslims. Be a son to the elders, and a father to the younger ones."**— (Read on pg 172, Al-Hafiz Jamaludeen Abi Al-Faraj and Abd Ar-Rahman bin Al-Jawzi and Al-Qurashi and Al-Baghdadi, The Biography and virtues of Omar bin Abd Al-Aziz: The Ascetic Caliph. Dar Al-Kotob Al-ilmiyah. Beirut:2001.)

102. Gratitude and Patience

Hasan al Basri said:

- **"The goodness in which there is no evil is: gratitude (to Allah) in times of well-being, and patience in times of misfortune. Yet how many of those who are blessed are not thankful, and how many of those who are tried are not patient?"**

- (Read on pg 47, Sameh Strauch, The Silver Lining. International Islamic Publishing House. Riyadh:2004.)

103. How the Christian embraced Islam because of Hasan al Basri's piety.

- **"This is a clear example from the Salaf (i.e pious predecessors) of how to call to the religion of Allah indirectly with your character, as sometimes calling a person directly may not prove the most effective way. Many accepted Islam because of hearing about the Divine character of Prophet Muhammad (sallallaahu `alayhi wa sallaam), even before they met him…as all of us did!!!**

  Hassan Al-Basree (rahimahullaah) had a neighbor who was a Christian. This neighbor had a toilet on the roof of his apartment and it used to leak through a hole in the roof of Hassan Al-Basree's apartment. Hassan placed a bucket beneath the hole to catch the urine that would leak through it and discard the contents at the end of each day. This continued for 20 years.

  Then one day, Hassan fell ill and his Christian neighbor came to visit him. When he entered, the neighbor noticed the bucket of urine that was leaking through the hole in his ceiling and

asked Hassan astoundingly! "How long have you been tolerating this harm from me?" **Hassan replied,** "For 20 years."

So the Christian neighbor took of his belt (which was the clothing of the Christians during that time) and accepted Islam."

-[Mentioned in Hilyatul Awliyaa'a by Abu Nu'aim Al Asbahaani (Rahimahullah)|Translated by Shaheed Muhammad Abu Azzubayr|on Friday March 26,2010 in the Capitol of Saudi Arabia, Riyadh|Courtesy of: Rawdah]

104. Indeed the people were not pleased with their Creator….

A man said to al-Hasan al-Basri (rahimahullah):

- **"The people sit around you so that they may find fault with you!'** ***So he said,*** **'Indeed, I encouraged my soul to aspire for Paradise so it aspired for it. Then I encouraged it to aspire for salvation from Hellfire and so it aspired for it. Then I encouraged it to aspire for salvation from the people, but I didn't find a way to that. Indeed the people were not pleased with their Creator although He provides for them, so how can they be pleased with another creation like themselves?"**

-[Al-Bidaya wal-Nihaya (9/318)]

105. Statements, actions and an intention cannot be correct except according to the Sunnah

Hasan Al Basri said:

- **"Statements cannot be correct except with actions; Statements and actions cannot be correct except with an intention; and statements, actions and an intention cannot be correct except according to the Sunnah."**

[From 'Sharh Usool I'tiqaad Ahl-us-Sunnah' al –Laalika'ee 2/57]

106. Does Iblees sleep

- **A man sai al-Hasan al-Basri, "Does Iblees sleep?" He answered, "If he were to sleep we could then have a rest."**

[Ibn al-Jawzi in Talbees Iblees]

107. Verily mankind is ungrateful to His Lord"

"Al-Hasan Al-Basri (*rahimahullaah*) used to say about the statement of the Most High, "Verily mankind is ungrateful to His Lord"[Surat Al-`Ādiyāt, Verse 6]

- **"This means that he remembers the tragedies that befell him but forgets the blessings."**

[From the Ways of Our Pious Predecessors | Adapted from Ahmed Fareed's *Min Akhlaaq-us-Salaf]*

108. Rectify your souls

Imaam Hasan Al-Basri (rahimahullaah) said:

- **"Your souls are your means to an end, so rectify your souls and they will notify you of your Lord (The Mighty and Majestic)"**

-[Source: Quoted by Shaikh Abdullaah Al-Bukhaari, who referenced it: Fathul Baari of Ibn Rajab 1/153]

109. Beautiful advices

Al-Hasan Al-Basri (rahimahullaah) said:

- **"If you see a man competing with you in the (affairs) of the worldly life, then compete with him in the (affairs) of the afterlife."**

He (rahimahullaah) said:

- **"The foundations of evil are three and its subsidiary branches are six. The foundations are: Envy, covetousness and love of the worldly life. Its subsidiary branches are: Love of leadership, love of boasting, love of praise, love of filling oneself with food, love of sleep and love of relaxation."**

He (rahimahullaah) said:

- **"The soul of the son of Aadam does not exit this world, except with a loss in three (things):**

  [1] It did not satisfy itself with what it gathered (of the worldly things);

  [2] It did not achieve what it hoped for;

[3] It did not increase in perfecting what is sent forth (for it of good deeds in the hereafter).”

-[Seeratus Salaf As-Saaleh by: Imaam Ismaaeel Bin Muhammad Bin Fadl Al-Asbahaanee (535AH: Chapter: A mention of those who followed the companions in righteousness]

110. The speech of Hasan al Basri and others

Ayyoub (rahimahullaah) said:

- **“Al-Hasan (rahimahullaah) used to speak with a speech as if it was a stream. And a people after him spoke with a speech from their mouths as if it was vomit.”**

[Siyar A'laam Nubulaa: 4/577]

111. Every day you are getting closer to death

Al-Hasan Al-Basri (rahimahullaah) said:

- **“The night and the day have not ceased to lessen the life spans and bringing close the appointed times of death.”**

[Jaami-ul Uloom Wal-Hikam: page: 400]

112. Mere saying the Kalimah is of no use unless acted upon it

It was said to Al-Hasan Al-Basri (rahimahullaah):

- **“Indeed, the people say that ”*Whoever testifies that none has the right to be worshipped except Allaah will enter paradise*”; so he (i.e. Al-Hasan) said: ”Whoever testifies that none has the**

right to worshipped except Allaah and then he fulfills its rights and obligations, he will enter paradise".

-[Jaami-ul Uloom Wal-Hikam: 224]

113. Reason for the weakness in Imaan

Al-Hasan Al-Basri (rahimahullaah) said:

- **"Indeed, a weakness in your Eemaan is that you are more attached to what is your possession than what is in Allaah's Hand."**

[Jaami-ul Uloom wal-Hikam: 207]

114. The heart of a believer lies between two fingers of the Merciful

Al-Hasan al-Basri said:

- **"Two thoughts roam over the soul, one from Allah one from the enemy. Allah shows mercy on a servant who settles at the thought that comes from Him. He embraces the thought that comes from Allah, while he fights against the one from his enemy. To illustrate the heart's mutual attraction between the two powers the Prophet said: "The heart of a believer lies between two fingers of the Merciful".... The fingers stand for upheaval and hesitation in the heart... If man follows the dictates of anger and appetite, the dominion of Satan appears in him through idle passions (hawa) and his heart becomes the nesting-place and container of shaytan, who feeds on hawa. If he does battle with his passions and does not let them dominate his ego (nafs), imitating in this the character of**

the angels, at that time his heart becomes the resting-place of angels and they alight upon it."

-[Imam al-Ghazzali relates al-Hasan's words on the personal struggle against one's lusts(jihad al-nafs) in the section of his Ihya' entitled Kitab Riyada al-Nafs wa Tahdhib al-Akhlaqwa Mu'alaja Amrad al-Qalb ("Book of the Training of the Ego, Disciplining of Manners, and Healing of the Heart's Diseases")]

115. Satan would like that to happen to us such that nobody would forbid the wrong nor command what is right.

- **"It was truly reported from al-Hasan that he heard a person say: 'no-one may perform the [religious] duty of forbidding what is wrong except a person who does no wrong'. al-Hasan remarked: 'Satan would like that to happen to us such that nobody would forbid the wrong nor command what is right.'**

  Abu Muhammad said: 'al-Hasan spoke the truth and that is what we also mentioned before. May God grant us to be amongst those [He permits to] do good and to act upon it, and make us amongst those who can see the guidance, for no one is without faults. One who looks to his own weaknesses will forget those of others. May God permit us to die on the *Sunna* of Muhammad (Allah abundantly bless him and grant him peace). *Amin*, O Lord of the Worlds!"

(Ibn Hazm, *al-Akhlaq wa 'l-Siyar*, p.157).

116. Iblees is the father of Jinn

Al-Hasan al-Basri said:

- **“Iblees was not one of the angels, not even for a single moment. He is the father of the jinn, just as Adam (peace be upon him) is the father of mankind.”**

[This was narrated by al-Tabari with a saheeh isnaad (part 3/89).]

117. Superiority of Sahaba

Al Hasan al Basri was in a gathering when he mentioned the companions of Muhammad -Sallallaahu Alayhi Wa Sallam -.

He then remarked:

- **“They possessed the most pious hearts of this ummah, were the most profound in knowledge and the least constraint. A people, whom Allah chose for the companionship of His Prophet -Sallallaahu Alayhi Wa Sallam -, so emulate their character and way, for by the Lord of the Ka'bah, they are upon the straight path.”**

[As-Shari`ah by Al-Ajurri, chapter: The virtue of all of the Companions –may Allah be pleased with them.]

118. Greet the Muslims

Hassan al-Basri is reported to have said,

- **"If you happen to pass by a group of people, some of whom are Muslims and some of whom are disbelievers, greet them."**

["Tafsir al-Qurtubi", Vol.11/112]

119. Righteous Caliphs

Al-Hasan al-Basri said:

- **"By Allah, the oath of allegiance to 'Ali was like the oath of allegiance to Abu Bakr and 'Umar (may Allah be pleased with them)"**

[Book: Ali bin abi Taalib, vol 1 by Dr Ali M Sallabi, page-326]

120. How to deal with the differences among the companions

- **Al-Hasan al-Basri (may Allah have mercy on him) was asked about the Companions fighting amongst themselves, and he said: "That was fighting in which the Companions of Muhammad *(sallallahu alaihi waallam)*e re present, and we were not; they knew, but we do not know. In the issues on which they agreed, we follow; on the issues on which they differed, we refrain from taking a stance."**

[Book: Ali bin abi Taalib, vo2 1 by Dr Ali M Sallabi, page-229]

121. If you truly love Allah then follow me, Allah will love you'

Hassan al-Basri observed:

- **"Some people had claimed to love Allah, so Allah tried them with the verse, `Say, If you truly love Allah then follow me, Allah will love you'"**

[Tafseer Ibn Kathir, Vol.2, p.25.]

122. Compete with him concerning hereafter

Al-Hasan [al-Basri] said,

- **"If you see a man competing with you with regard to this world then compete with him concerning the Hereafter."**

-[The evil of craving wealth and status by ibn Rajab, pg-34]

123. Two types of knowledge

Hasan al Basri said:

- **"Knowledge is of two types: knowledge in the heart and knowledge upon the tongue. The knowledge in the heart is the beneficial knowledge and the knowledge upon the tongue is the proof of Allaah upon His slaves"**

-[ad-Daarimee (1/102).]

124. Beware of those who tells you about others

Al-Hasan Al-Basri, said,

- **"Assuredly, the one who tells you about the speech of others would also tell others about your speech."**

-[MAJOR SINS by Imam Shamsu ed-Deen Dhahabi, pg-124]

125. Words of comfort

Al-Hasan Al-Basri reported that,

- **"A man was very sad because of the death of his son and he complained this to him. Al-Hasan said, "Was your son absent from you before his death? The man replied, "Yes, his absence was *more* than his attendance. Al-Hasan said,"So deem his absence forever but this time will be the most rewarding *for* you. The man said, O Abu Sa'id, You appeased my anxiety about my son.**

[MAJOR SINS by Imam Shamsu ed-Deen Dhahabi, pg-148]

126. Learn manners before seeking knowledge

Al Hasan al Basri said,

- **"He who has no manners has no knowledge; he who has no patience has no Religion (deen); and he who has no God consciousness has no closeness to Allah."**

-[Preparing For The Day Of Judgement By: Imaam Ibn Hajar Al'Asqalani, Translated By: S.M Hasan AlBanna, pg-11]

127. Were it not for the scholars, people would have become like cattle

Al Hasan al Basri said,

- **"Were it not for righteous people, the earth and everything in it would have been destroyed; were it not for the virtuous, the corrupt would have perished; were it not for the scholars, people would have become like cattle; were it not for rulers,**

people would have killed one another; were it not for fools, the dunya would have devastated out of neglect, and were it not for the wind, everything would have stagnated."

-[Preparing For The Day Of Judgement By: Imaam Ibn Hajar Al'Asqalani, Translated By: S.M Hasan AlBanna, pg-30]

128. Six punishment for the lovers of dunya

Al Hasan al Basri said,

- **"Allah will inflict six punishments on the one who loves the dunya and chooses it over Hereafter – three in this world and three in the next. As for the three in this world they are – delusion and hope in having a long lifetime that has no end, overpowering greed that leaves no contentment, and the taking away of the sweetness of worship. As for the three in the Hereafter they are – the harrowing ordeal of the Day of Judgement, a sever bringing to account, and an eternal regret."**

-[Preparing For The Day Of Judgement By: Imaam Ibn Hajar Al'Asqalani, Translated By: S.M Hasan AlBanna, pg-31]

129. What Hasan al Basri heared was beautiful

Al Hasan al Basri said,

- **"One day I was walking with a young pious man in the narrow streets of Basra and its markets until we reached a physician sitting on a chair and around him were many men, women, and children who had bottles of water in their hands. Each one of them was seeking a cure for his illness. The young man moved closer to the physician and asked him, 'O physician! Do**

you have a medicine that cleans away sins and cures the [spiritual] diseases of the heart? He replied 'Yes!' The young man said, 'Give it to me!" The physician said, "Take ten things from me – take the roots of the tree of poverty with the roots of the tree of humility, and pour in it the milk of repentance, then place it in the mortar of acceptance [of whatever is predestined for one], crush it with the pestle of contentment, then place it in the pot of piety, pour over it the water of shame, then boil it with the fire of love, then place it in the cup of gratitude and cool it down with the fan of hope, then drink it with the spoon of praise. If you do all of this then it will cure you of every illness and trial in this world and in the Hereafter.'"

-[Preparing For The Day Of Judgement By: Imaam Ibn Hajar Al'Asqalani, Translated By: S.M Hasan AlBanna, pg-42]

130. Be careful from this

Al-Hasan said:

- **"It used to be said: 'Whoever condemns his brother for a sin that he repented from, will not die until Allaah tests him with it (i.e. the same sin).'"**

-[The Difference between Advising & Condemning by ibn Rajab al Hanbali, pg-23]

131. Does the Muslim eat until he can eat no more?

- **'Uqbah ar-Rasibi said: "I entered upon al-Hasan while he was eating, and he said: "Come eat with me." I said: "I have already eaten until I can eat no more." He said: "Subhan Allah! Does the Muslim eat until he can eat no more?!""**
  [The manner of knowledge seeker by Abu abdillah Muhammed saeed Raslan, [pg-24]

JazakAllahu khair